

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6031

To provide student loan forgiveness to the survivors of victims of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide student loan forgiveness to the survivors of victims of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “September 11 Sur-
5 vivors Student Loan Relief Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CANCELLATION OF STUDENT LOAN INDEBTEDNESS**

7 **FOR SURVIVORS OF VICTIMS OF THE SEP-**
8 **TEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SERVANT.—The term “el-
2 igible public servant” means an individual who, as
3 determined in accordance with regulations of the
4 Secretary—

5 (A) served as a police officer, firefighter,
6 other safety or rescue personnel, or as a mem-
7 ber of the Armed Forces; and

8 (B) died (or dies) or became (or becomes)
9 permanently and totally disabled due to injuries
10 suffered in the terrorist attack on September
11 11, 2001.

12 (2) ELIGIBLE VICTIM.—The term “eligible vic-
13 tim” means an individual who, as determined in ac-
14 cordance with regulations of the Secretary, died (or
15 dies) or became (or becomes) permanently and to-
16 tally disabled due to injuries suffered in the terrorist
17 attack on September 11, 2001.

18 (3) ELIGIBLE PARENT.—The term “eligible
19 parent” means the parent of an eligible victim if—

20 (A) the parent owes a Federal student loan
21 that is a consolidation loan that was used to
22 repay a PLUS loan incurred on behalf of such
23 eligible victim; or

1 (B) the parent owes a Federal student loan
2 that is a PLUS loan incurred on behalf of an
3 eligible victim.

4 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Education.

6 (5) FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN.—The term
7 “Federal student loan” means any loan made, in-
8 sured, or guaranteed under part B, D, or E of title
9 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

10 (b) RELIEF FROM INDEBTEDNESS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
12 for the discharge or cancellation of—

13 (A) the Federal student loan indebtedness
14 of the spouse of an eligible public servant, as
15 determined in accordance with regulations of
16 the Secretary, including any consolidation loan
17 that was used jointly by the eligible public serv-
18 ant and his or her spouse to repay the Federal
19 student loans of the spouse and the eligible
20 public servant;

21 (B) the portion incurred on behalf of the
22 eligible victim (other than an eligible public
23 servant), of a Federal student loan that is a
24 consolidation loan that was used jointly by the
25 eligible victim and his or her spouse, as deter-

1 mined in accordance with regulations of the
2 Secretary, to repay the Federal student loans of
3 the eligible victim and his or her spouse;

4 (C) the portion of the consolidation loan
5 indebtedness of an eligible parent that was in-
6 curred on behalf of an eligible victim; and

7 (D) the PLUS loan indebtedness of an eli-
8 gible parent that was incurred on behalf of an
9 eligible victim.

10 (2) METHOD OF DISCHARGE OR CANCELLA-
11 TION.—A loan required to be discharged or canceled
12 under paragraph (1) shall be discharged or canceled
13 by the method used under section 437(a), 455(a)(1),
14 or 464(c)(1)(F) of the Higher Education Act of
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087(a), 1087e(a)(1),
16 1087dd(c)(1)(F)), whichever is applicable to such
17 loan.

18 (c) FACILITATION OF CLAIMS.—The Secretary
19 shall—

20 (1) establish procedures for the filing of appli-
21 cations for discharge or cancellation under this sec-
22 tion by regulations that shall be prescribed and pub-
23 lished within 90 days after the date of enactment of
24 this Act and without regard to the requirements of
25 section 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

1 (2) take such actions as may be necessary to
2 publicize the availability of discharge or cancellation
3 of Federal student loan indebtedness under this sec-
4 tion.

5 (d) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENTS.—
6 Funds available for the purposes of making payments to
7 lenders in accordance with section 437(a) for the dis-
8 charge of indebtedness of deceased or disabled individuals
9 shall be available for making payments under section
10 437(a) to lenders of loans as required by this section.

11 (e) APPLICABLE TO OUTSTANDING DEBT.—The pro-
12 visions of this section shall be applied to discharge or can-
13 cel only Federal student loans (including consolidation
14 loans) on which amounts were owed on September 11,
15 2001. Nothing in this section shall be construed to author-
16 ize any refunding of any repayment of a loan.

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